

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-53. (Canceled).

54. (Currently Amended) A mask system for treating sleep disordered breathing, comprising:

a flexible shell having at least one portion including forming a flexible decoupling structure;

a frame to support the shell;

a cushion provided to the shell to form a seal with the patient; and

a conduit portion having a first end provided to the shell and being associated with the decoupling structure of the shell, and a second end adapted to engage an air delivery conduit, whereby any movement of the air delivery conduit creating drag forces applied to the conduit portion can be decoupled from the cushion so as to avoid disruption of the seal.

55. (Previously Presented) The mask system according to claim 54, wherein the conduit comprises an elbow.

56. (Previously Presented) The mask system according to claim 55, wherein the elbow includes an approximately 90° bend between the first and second ends thereof.

57. (Previously Presented) The mask system according to claim 56, wherein the elbow is a swivel elbow.

58. (Canceled).

59. (Currently Amended) The mask system according to claim~~[[58]]~~ 54, wherein the flexible portion-decoupling structure includes a bellows portion for a flexible neck adjacent the aperture of the shell where the conduit portion interfaces with the shell.

60. (Canceled).

61. (Currently Amended) The mask system according to claim~~[[60]]~~ 54, wherein the shell is made entirely of~~[[said]]~~ flexible material.

62. (Previously Presented) The mask system according to claim 54, further comprising a plurality of vent orifices provided to the conduit.

63. (Previously Presented) The mask system according to claim 54, further comprising one or more reinforcing ribs provided to the shell in a region surrounding an aperture of the shell where the conduit portion is provided.

64. (Canceled).

65. (Currently Amended) The mask system according to claim~~[[64]]~~ 54, wherein the frame is made of a relatively hard material compared to the shell.

66. (Currently Amended) The mask system according to claim~~[[64]]~~ 54, wherein the frame includes one or more headgear connection points.

67. (New) The mask system according to claim 54, wherein the shell includes one or more flanges defining a corresponding number of channels in which the frame is received.